

MEMO

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Ted Harris, Associate Regional Planner, 213-236-1916, harrist@scag.ca.gov

DATE: October 13, 2003

SUBJECT: **PILUT (Planning for Integrated Land Use and Transportation) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Update and Environmental Evaluation**

Recommended Action:

Receive and File

Environmental Evaluation of RTP/EIR Alternatives:

During the November 6, 2003 Energy and Environment Committee meeting, staff will provide an overview of the expected environmental effects of the RTP/EIR Alternatives on the following environmental categories:

- 1) Land Use
- 2) Population, Employment, and Housing
- 3) Transportation
- 4) Air Quality
- 5) Water Resources
- 6) Noise
- 7) Public Service and Utilities
- 8) Cultural Resources
- 9) Biological Resources
- 10) Geology
- 11) Energy
- 12) Hazardous Materials
- 13) Visual/Aesthetic Resources

Each of the RTP/EIR Alternatives listed below is comprised of a set of transportation projects, programs, and transportation, strategies, and a growth projection that results from implementation. The five RTP/EIR Alternatives include:

The **No Project** alternative is a future scenario resulting from minimal improvements to the transportation system. Only those programmed transportation projects that have federal environmental clearance by 2002 are assumed. These reasonably foreseeable projects fulfill the definition of the mandated CEQA No Project Alternative.

The **2001 RTP Modified** alternative is an update of the adopted 2001 RTP to reflect the most recent growth estimates and transportation planning decisions and assumptions. This Alternative does not include urban-form strategies.

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The **Growth Vision (Hybrid)** alternative builds upon the 2001 RTP Modified alternative by assuming additional transportation/land use strategies that encourage compact growth, increased jobs/housing balance, and centers-based development, where feasible, in all parts of the region.

The **PILUT 1 (Infill)** alternative builds upon the 2001 RTP Modified alternative by assuming additional transportation/land use strategies that encourage a substantial portion of future growth to concentrate in existing urban centers through infill and redevelopment. This alternative has been designed to reduce consumption of open space and habitat.

The **PILUT 2 (Fifth Ring)** alternative builds upon the 2001 RTP Modified alternative by assuming additional transportation/land use strategies that encourage growth toward a more decentralized urban form, and an improvement in the jobs/housing balance in the outlying areas of the region. Specifically, PILUT2 will focus on improving and expanding infrastructure to utilize undeveloped land on the outer edges of the urbanized area.

The environmental evaluation of these RTP EIR Alternatives will be incorporated into the Draft Program EIR, which, as stated below, will be released in December 2003 after EEC approval.

PILUT RTP EIR Schedule:

October 2, 2003	EEC approved the EIR scope & TCC approved releasing the Draft RTP
Nov 6, 2003	Update EEC on environmental evaluation of RTP/EIR Alternatives
December 4, 2003	EEC approves release of the Draft PEIR
December 15, 2003	Release Draft Program EIR
January 2004	Joint RTP/EIR Public Hearing
Late January 2004	Close of Public Comments for Draft Program EIR
March 15, 2004	Mail Response to comments to commenters
April 1, 2004	EEC approves and RC certifies the Final PEIR, Findings, and Overriding Considerations

SUMMARY:

The strategy for overcoming this challenging schedule and demanding workload relies upon the foundation of ongoing communication, coordination, and flexibility among elected officials, the public, SCAG staff, and consultants.